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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/618,079	07/17/2000	Rui Miguel de Azevedo Magalhaes	WRP-002.01 (22190-201)	7302

25181 7590 09/02/2003

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EXAMINER

MCDOWELL, SUZANNE E

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1732

DATE MAILED: 09/02/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/618,079

Applicant(s)

MAGALHAES ET AL.

Examiner

Suzanne E. McDowell

Art Unit

1732

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3-20 and 26-30 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 21-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 7,8.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group I, claims 1, 2 and 21-25 in Paper No. 10 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the search and examination for the method claims is the same as that for the apparatus. This is not found persuasive because the apparatus can be used to practice another and materially different method, one where fluid is injected instead of gas.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

2. Claims 3-20 and 26- 30 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in Paper No. 10.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Loren (US Patent 5,204,050). Loren discloses a method of gas assist injection molding wherein the resin nozzle (36) is used to inject a short shot of resin, nitrogen is then introduced through the gas nozzle (130) to form a hollow (40a) in the resin, and is then vented through vent passage (100), formed by gas injection through gas nozzle (120). Gas may be vented from either gas nozzle (120, 130) (column 9, lines 27-38), in which case the nozzles are both inlet and outlet apertures, and the method utilizes two of each type of aperture. Additionally, see Figures 1 and 9 for depiction of the gas channel formed between the nozzles.

5. Claims 21-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Blankenburg (US Patent 5,728,325). Blankenburg discloses the claimed limitations as follows: injecting resin through an injection

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nozzle (22) into a mold (10) cavity (16), sequentially injecting different temperature gases into the resin in the cavity through the gas nozzle (26), and venting each temperature gas prior to injecting the next temperature gas (column 5, lines 25-30) through a pressure regulator (90) and vent circuit. Regarding claim 22, the different gases are injected at different pressures from each other, and may also be injected at varying pressures during injection of each gas (column 9, line 62-column 10, line 20). The venting of the gas would therefore be at varying pressure levels for each step of venting each gas. Regarding claim 25, the initial gas injected may be cold (column 8, line 65-column 9, line 5), i.e., in the range of -40°F to -320°F (column 5, lines 31-36).

Conclusion

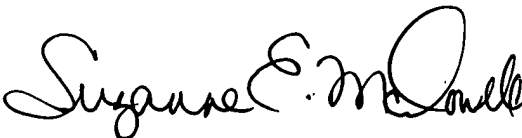
6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Sayer (US Patent 4,923,667) and Nelson et al. (US Patent 5,295,800).

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Suzanne E. McDowell whose telephone number is (703) 305-4018. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael P. Colaianni can be reached on (703) 305-5493. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0651.

SEM
August 25, 2003


SUZANNE E. MCDOWELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER